New Orleans States-Items

NOV 17 1972

SUNO Session Held in Secret

By ANGUS LIND

A group of students, teachers and administrators at Southern University in New Orleans — many of them wearing black arm bands—met today behind locked doors.

The nature of the talks in the SUNO Science Lecture Hall was not disclosed, but there was speculation the meeting was called to discuss the state Board of Education's refusal to accept the resignation of SUNO's top administrator, Dr. Emmett W. Bashful.

A group of dissident students cleared out of the administration building they had seized Nov. 1 after announcement of Bashful's resignation on Nov. 9.

The Board of Education, on the advice of Gov. Edwin W. Edwards, yesterday refused to accept the Bashful resignation.

SO FAR THERE has been no official reaction from SUNO students and faculty members on the board's action.

About 250 persons entered the building for today's meeting about 10 a.m. The door was opened by Earl Picard, president of the SUNO Student Government Association, and a leader of the student protest.

Newsmen were barred.

After the meeting had been under way about 1½ hours, about 150 students from Xavier University joined the SUNO group in the building.

Many in the Xavier group also wore black arm bands in sympathy for two blacks killed yesterday during a confrontation at Southern's main campus in Baton Rouge.

SEVERAL SIGNS carried by the SUNO and Xavier groups. One carried by SUNO students was painted on a bedsheet. It read: "You bled our people at SUBR but you won't bleed me." the words "bleed me" were painted in blood-red.

One of the Xavier group's signs read: "Give Us Justice Or We Shall Take It."

At mid-afternoon a number of those inside, including what appeared to be the entire Xavier delegation, left the building.

PICARD AND Asa Sims, SUNO

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dean of academic affairs, were among those remaining inside.

Everyone leaving was told not to discuss the meeting with newsmen.

A group of student-faculty committees meeting the last several days at SUNO yesterday announced they had reached accord on grievances which have kept the school in turmoil since late last month.

A delegation of students and faculty members had planned to go to Baton Rouge to report the agreement, but the trip apparently has been canceled because the state Board of Education is not in session today as planned.

"There's no need to make the trip to Baton Rouge if we have no one to report to," a spokesman for the delegation said this morning.

The SUNO campus was virtually deserted today, with only a handful of students on campus.

Under the plan accepted yesterday by students and faculty members, classes would resume Monday for the 2,700 SUNO students.

The education board was to have met yesterday and today in Baton Rouge, but today's session was canceled.

COMMITTEES OF students and faculty members spent most of yesterday reaching an accord on 17 grievances and a position paper which criticizes Gov. Edwin W. Edwards.

"We feel that Gov. Edwards is retreating from the use of reason in letting political gain obscure the fact that the state Board of Education has not met its financial responsibility to SUNO or any of the black colleges in the state," the statement said.

"We further believe it was always in the governor's plans to take over the state's black colleges as is the movement around the country to eliminate black schools which serve as a source of black leaders."

The statement, read yesterday by Dr. Clyde Smith, also criticized the state branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for having adopted a resolution urging merger of the Southern University system with that of the predominately white Louisiana State University system.

The SUNO turmoil began Oct. 27 when militant students called for a boycott of classes to support their demands, which included the resignation of Dr. Emmett W. Bashful, black vice president of the Southern University system and head of the New Orleans campus.

On Nov. 1, about 150 students seized the administration building and held it until Nov. 8, yielding only after an announcement that Bashful had resigned.

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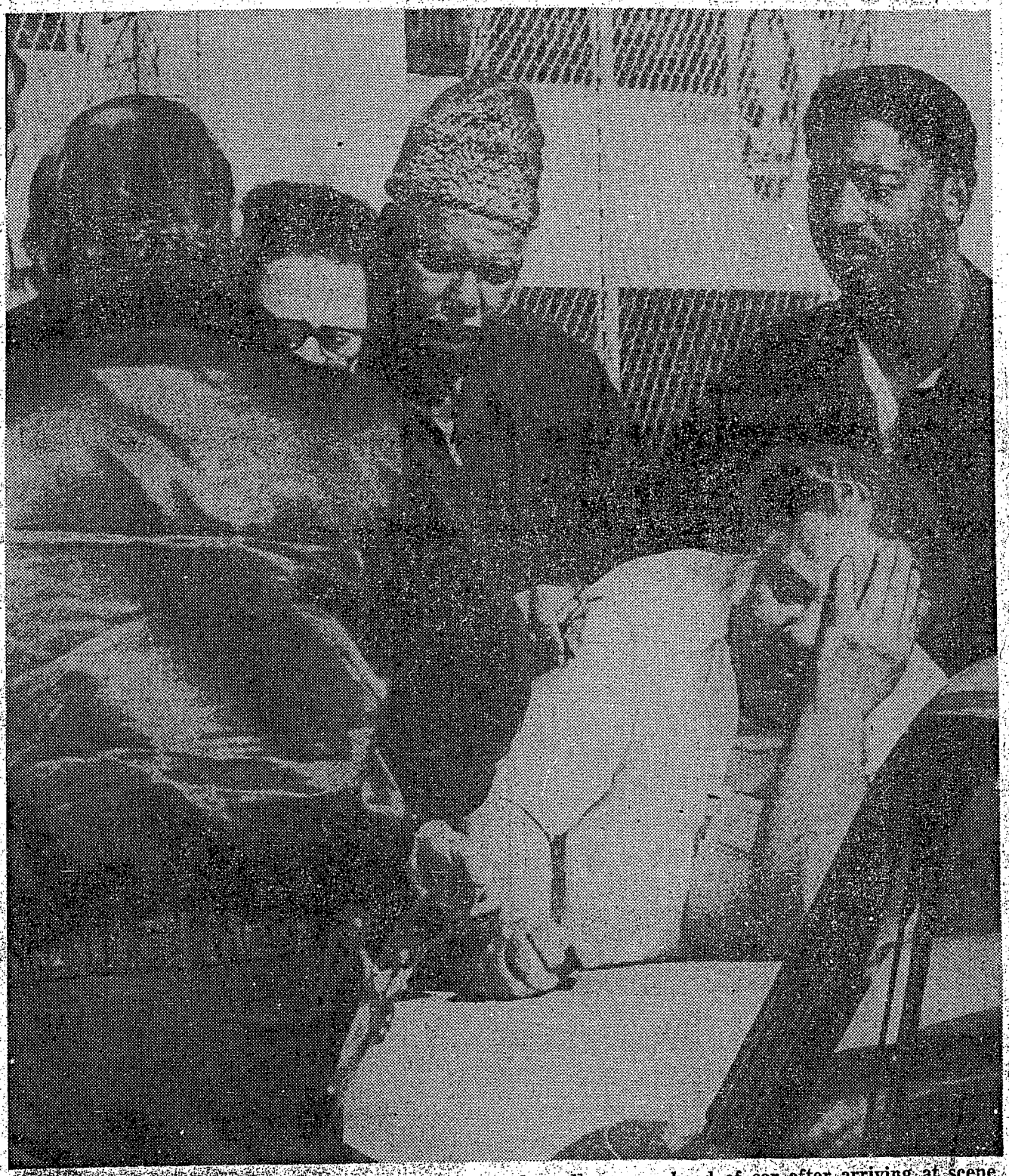

Grief-stricken father

ROY ROME sobs as he collapses on hood of car after arriving at scene of shooting in which his son died at Rome's Food Mart No. Two, 9103 Fig street, this morning. Police were investigating the incident. See story on Page 4. (States-Item photo by James N. Pitts.)

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